United Nations S/2015/477

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 June 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Chad in December 2014 (see annex). This document was prepared under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mahamet Zene **Cherif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Chad (December 2014)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Chad, in December 2014, the Security Council held 29 meetings, of which 2 were private and 27 were public. Of this total, 3 meetings consisted of thematic debates; 14 informal consultations were held in the Council Chamber; and 7 meetings were conducted via video link. Eight resolutions and four presidential statements were adopted and 10 statements to the press were issued.

The matters dealt with were taken up in the order set out in the programme of work adopted at the Council's first meeting under the presidency of Chad, on 4 December, and covered various parts of the world. Some issues that had not originally been included in the programme were also discussed. Such issues included the situations in the Gambia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Middle East; resolutions were adopted on the latter.

Africa

Libya

At a briefing at the 7345th meeting, on 17 December, which was followed by consultations, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Olivier Nduhungirehe, speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), reported to the Council on the work of the Committee from 16 September to 17 December 2014.

The representative of Libya emphasized that the legitimate authorities of Libya are partners with the Security Council in the efforts to ensure that the embargo is not violated by non-State parties or terrorist organizations. He called on the Council to avoid dealing with the armed groups on an equal footing with the legitimate Government. He asked the Council to facilitate the Libyan army's obtaining weapons and equipment to achieve victory over terrorism and restore State institutions as well as to charge the Secretariat with preparing an assistance plan to help Libya to rebuild institutions. Lastly, he sought the Council's assistance with regard to the drafting of a new constitution that would chart a course for democracy, including the conduct of elections.

The Council members expressed concern over the continuing illicit flow of weapons to and from Libya and stressed the need to ensure the effective implementation of relevant measures imposed by the Security Council. Several members of the Council underscored the importance of cooperation with regional actors in this regard.

On 23 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Bernardino León, briefed the Council on the situation in Libya and his efforts to facilitate the dialogue between Libyan parties. He familiarized the Council members with his plans to resume inter-Libyan contacts, including those among political parties and tribal leaders, and further elaborated on such important aspects as the formation of a national unity government, general security arrangements and weapons control.

The members of the Council stated unanimously that there was no military solution to the Libyan crisis, voiced their support for the United Nations-led inter-Libyan dialogue and emphasized the important role of regional players in achieving peace and stability in Libya. They noted with great concern the growing terrorist threat emanating from the Libyan territory and affecting the neighbouring countries and beyond. Some Council members stressed the need to support the legitimate authorities of Libya in their combat against terrorism.

Sudan and South Sudan

Darfur

At the 7326th meeting, on 4 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council on the situation in Darfur, on the basis of the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions 2148 (2014) and 2173 (2014). The meeting was followed by closed consultations.

On the political front, direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and opposition movements continued in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union, but had been suspended by the mediation team on 30 November 2014 to allow for further consultations.

With regard to security, the situation remained precarious, with the intensification of inter-ethnic conflict, ongoing fighting between government forces and armed movements, and the phenomenon of banditry and criminality, which had resulted in the deaths of 364 civilians and the displacement of thousands. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had not only been hampered by restrictions but had also suffered loss of life, including two soldiers, one from Ethiopia and one from Rwanda.

The Council condemned those killings and called upon the Sudanese authorities to shed light on the matter in order to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

With regard to allegations reported by Radio Dabanga that more than 200 girls and women had been raped in the village of Thabit, an investigation had been opened but had failed to establish the veracity of the allegations. According to the Under-Secretary-General, the strong presence of Sudanese soldiers at the site of the alleged abuses had not created an environment conducive to the successful conduct of the investigation, and had prevented the investigation from being conclusive. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan, Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman Elnor, who was present at the meeting, responded by describing the case as a lie invented to advance an agenda. He also referred to an investigation conducted by a team headed by the Prosecutor of the Darfur Criminal Court, which had concluded that reports of sexual violence in Thabit were baseless.

Some Council members requested that a new investigation should be conducted to clarify that case, which had considerably undermined relations between the Sudanese authorities and United Nations staff, as shown by the Government's decision to close the UNAMID human rights branch office in Khartoum because UNAMID was mandated and deployed exclusively in Darfur.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, the number of displaced persons had increased by more than 300,000, over and above the 2 million already recorded. Heavy rainfall had prevented harvesting and hampered the delivery of humanitarian aid.

With respect to the alleged cover-up by UNAMID of crimes and abuses committed by government forces and armed movements, some Council members, following statements by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and Philip Cooper, expressed concern at the allegations and requested that appropriate action should be taken to prevent such practices, which tarnished the image of UNAMID. A Council member stressed the politicized nature of allegations of cover-up and called upon UNAMID to continue the provision of verified information on the situation in Darfur.

Security Council resolution 2046 (2012)

The Council members held consultations on 8 December to discuss the issue of relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and the situation in Abyei. They heard a presentation, via video link, by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), Major General Halefom Moges.

The Special Envoy reported on a joint meeting between the two countries held in Khartoum, at which each side had called on the other to stop supporting the various rebel movements. A joint statement was read out to that effect. A meeting of the members of the joint demarcation committee for the disputed Abyei Area had also been held.

The Special Envoy indicated that the number of clashes between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) had increased in the States of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

With respect to the national dialogue, the Special Envoy stated that the current objective was to work to achieve a complete cessation of hostilities and create an enabling environment for Khartoum, and to provide all the necessary guarantees for the participation of the different movements in that dialogue.

Many Council members expressed deep concern at the security and humanitarian situation in the States of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, particularly in the light of reports from non-governmental organizations of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. A Council member stressed the exaggerated and biased nature of such reports authored by non-governmental organizations affiliated with SPLM-North.

On 11 December, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press on the Sudan and South Sudan.

On 15 December, at its 7341st meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/26), in which it expressed concern that South Sudan had been plunged into catastrophe on account of political disputes among its leaders, with disastrous consequences for the civilian population.

Most Council members deplored the lack of substantive progress in resolving the crisis in South Sudan, while welcoming the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in that regard. They also expressed disappointment at the fact that the military option continued to prevail over political dialogue, despite the international community's 15-day ultimatum for the cessation of hostilities and the resumption of dialogue with a view to reaching an agreement based on a matrix proposed by IGAD. Some members said that the ultimatum was backed by a threat of targeted sanctions, such as the inclusion of leaders and warlords on the sanctions list if existing agreements were not honoured and hostilities persisted.

The Council deplored the attacks committed against United Nations peacekeepers, some of whom had lost their lives, and commended IGAD and the African Union for their mediation efforts. They also expressed their gratitude to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and to troop-contributing countries, and paid tribute to the families of military, police and civilian personnel killed in the line of duty.

They noted that the humanitarian situation was dire, marked by thousands of displaced persons, famine and cholera outbreaks. They accordingly reiterated the urgent need for additional funding to assist population groups in distress.

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

With respect to the disputed Abyei Area, the Council members took note of the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations concerning the Secretary-General's report on the matter. According to the report, the security situation in the Area had remained calm, thanks to the efforts of UNISFA. However, the migration period, which coincided with the end of the rainy season, had raised fears of new tensions between the various communities in the Area.

With regard to the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, Deng Mading Mijak had been appointed Committee Co-Chair for South Sudan, and the Council members called for the immediate resumption of that mechanism's activities to enable it to play its essential role, in order to address the public administration and law and order vacuum in the Area.

On the issue of border control, the Under-Secretary-General emphasized that the lack of air assets was a significant bottleneck that needed to be addressed.

Some Council members requested the African Union to make available, as soon as possible, the findings of the investigation into the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief to enable that community to participate in meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee.

Sudan and the International Criminal Court

At the 7337th meeting, on 12 December, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, presenting the Prosecutor's twentieth report to the

Council, expressed regret that the Council had not supported her Office with regard to the situation in the Sudan, despite the continuing deterioration of the security situation and the failure of the Government of the Sudan to implement the Court's arrest warrants. She claimed that a dramatic shift in the Council's approach was needed. The Prosecutor reported that not only did the situation in Darfur continue to deteriorate, the brutality with which crimes were being committed had become more pronounced. The Prosecutor said that the recent allegations of rape of approximately 200 women and girls in Thabit should shock the Council into action.

In view of her Office's limited resources, and given the Council's failure to define a strategy for conducting investigations in Darfur, the Prosecutor advised she had no choice but to put the Darfur investigations on hold and to shift resources to other urgent cases, especially those where trials were approaching. Referring to allegations of UNAMID misreporting, the Prosecutor welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had taken immediate steps in response to her call for action in June, and expressed hope that the recommendations of the internal review team would be effectively implemented.

Most Council members expressed their deep concern at the allegations of mass rape in Thabit, and many also called on the Government of the Sudan not to hinder investigations into the allegations. A Council member noted that Radio Dabanga, which had spread the rumours on the mass sexual violence in Thabit, refused to cooperate with the United Nations officials there, and added that not a single victim or witness was found by either the Sudanese authorities or UNAMID.

Some Council members said that the Sudan openly disregarded Security Council resolution 1593 (2005). In fact, the Janjaweed militia had been strengthened with the recruitment of adolescents, and impunity continued to prevail and to be encouraged. To date, more than 60 UNAMID peacekeepers had lost their lives, and none of the perpetrators had been arrested or brought to trial. The alleged mass rapes in Thabit were mentioned as an example of the acts being committed against the population, while more than 2 million people had been displaced and more than 500,000 had become refugees. They called on the Government of the Sudan to meet its obligations, and for full cooperation with the International Criminal Court from all States including on implementation of arrest warrants, with follow-up action from the Council on non-cooperation. Other Council members expressed doubts regarding such follow-up action by the Council. Many Council members emphasized the problem of the Sudan's continuing failure to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, especially on the non-execution of arrest warrants.

Sudan

The Council met in emergency consultations on 30 December at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom, following the decision taken by the Sudanese authorities on 24 December to expel the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, and the UNDP Country Director for the Sudan, Yvonne Helle. The Council heard a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson.

The Resident Coordinator was accused by the Government of the Sudan of having insulted the political leaders, people and Government of the Sudan in an interview published in a Norwegian newspaper, thereby failing to act with the

discretion incumbent on a senior international official serving in a diplomatic capacity. The UNDP Country Director was accused of unilaterally ending UNDP technical and financial assistance programmes for which the Sudan had signed an agreement with the United Nations and of having acted in an arrogant and insulting manner towards the country's highest authorities.

Some Council members deplored the expulsions, which they regarded as provocations against the United Nations, and called on the Government of the Sudan to reverse that decision, as it hampered United Nations assistance to the Sudan, to the detriment of the people.

Other members did not see the need for an emergency meeting of the Council on an issue of expulsion, which did not constitute a threat to international peace and security, and expressed the view that an expulsion should never adversely affect the delivery of assistance programmes. The Sudan was a sovereign State, and United Nations staff, no matter how senior, owed respect to the country hosting them for the purpose of their mission. They emphasized that the Council should not apply a double standard by meeting when the Sudan was involved but not when worse incidents took place in other countries.

Somalia

In Somalia, almost every week brought new and deplorable attacks of all kinds: booby-traps in cars and buildings, suicide commandos or suicide bombers, rocket attacks, and the like. In December, two such attacks occurred.

On 3 December, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press following a terrorist attack in Mogadishu that had led to casualties. In it, the Council members, outraged at the attack by Al-Shabaab, condemned terrorism in all its forms and called for the perpetrators and sponsors to be prosecuted and brought to justice. They expressed their determination to combat that scourge in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

On 10 December, the Council President issued another statement to the press on the overall situation in Somalia, In which the Council members expressed concern about the political crisis in that country, and commended the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia for his actions, including "Vision 2016", which was aimed at eradicating the violence perpetrated by Al-Shabaab. They reiterated their support for , the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Nicholas Kay, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Maman Sidikou.

On 26 December, the Council President issued another statement to the press concerning a terrorist attack in Mogadishu. The Council members strongly condemned the attack against the Halane base camp of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which had caused numerous deaths, including of three AMISOM soldiers and one civilian. They extended condolences to AMISOM and to the families of the victims. They also paid tribute to AMISOM and the Somali forces for their swift response to the attack. The Council expressed its determination to combat terrorism and underlined the need to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Liberia

On 8 December, in closed consultations, the Permanent Representative of Jordan and Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, Dina Kawar, introduced a report on the work of that Committee.

The report indicated that there had been no serious violations of the sanctions resolution other than attacks by supporters of the former President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, in the Ivorian village of Grabo, on the border with Liberia. The report also referred to the possible designation of a focal point in the Government of Liberia to coordinate communication with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), particularly on issues pertaining to the sanctions regime. The Government of Liberia had raised no objections to the content of the report, which reflected real progress in that country's compliance with the sanctions.

The Council members stressed the importance of marking and tracing weapons in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials in order to better track their movements. They also underlined that the Ebola epidemic had undermined the progress that Liberia had made since the end of the civil war in 2003. Lastly, strong support was expressed for the extension of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) and for a nine-month extension of the relevant sanctions.

At its 7328th meeting, on 9 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2188 (2014), by which it renewed the sanctions against Liberia. In the resolution, which was sponsored by several members of the Council, the Council noted inter alia that the Government of Liberia bears the primary responsibility for ensuring peace and protecting the population and that the situation remains fragile and constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

On the same day, the Council held a private meeting with countries contributing troops to UNMIL. That meeting, held pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, was presided over by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Chad, Bante Mangaral, and moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The impact of the Ebola epidemic was emphasized. Among UNMIL personnel, two individuals, one civilian and one soldier, had been infected. Both patients had been evacuated, while 22 individuals who had been in contact with them, along with the helicopters used for flights between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, had been quarantined for 21 days. Some troop-contributing countries had announced the withdrawal of their troops for fear of Ebola infection.

With regard to the conduct of UNMIL peacekeepers, the Under-Secretary-General indicated that a zero-tolerance policy was enforced regarding sexual abuse.

On 15 December, at its 7340th meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2190 (2014), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIL until 30 September 2015. In the resolution, which was sponsored by several members of the Council, the Council expressed concern about the Ebola outbreak and, in this regard, affirmed its intention to resume the phased drawdown of UNMIL once it had been determined that Liberia had made significant progress in combating the Ebola threat.

Gambia

On 31 December, at his initiative, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, briefed Council members on the attack on the presidential palace in the Gambia on 30 December. He emphasized that what had occurred in the Gambia was not a popular uprising since there were no signs of civil unrest or political manifestations.

The Under-Secretary-General said that the alleged perpetrator of the attempted coup, Lieutenant Colonel Lamine Sanneh, who was living in exile in Senegal, had been killed, as well as at least three others in the attack.

The Under-Secretary-General noted that the President, Al Hadji Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, had faced several unsuccessful attempts to depose him by coup since he took office following the coup in 1994. The Government's response had been harsh and it had taken measures that threatened the family members of the perpetrators and members of their ethnic groups. The United Nations was monitoring the situation closely. The Secretary-General had already condemned all attempts to seize power by force. A free and transparent international investigation was planned, and an appeal for restraint had been made.

The Under-Secretary-General recalled that in the aftermath of the coup attempt of 1981 there was an invitation to conduct an international investigation, and called on all parties to exercise restraint and settle their differences through legal means. He made known the intention of the Secretary-General to send his Special Representative for West Africa, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, to Banjul and promised to keep the Council informed.

The Council members expressed their concern over the attempted coup, made an appeal to those involved to refrain from violence and resolve the differences peacefully and stressed the need for a proper investigation. Some of them urged the Government to respect human rights and spoke of its response to the coup attempt. Others underscored the inadmissibility of unconstitutional seizure of power.

Central African Republic

At the 7329th meeting, on 9 December, the Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who reported on progress made in the political process in the Central African Republic owing to the efforts of the international mediator with the support of the African Union and the international community.

This progress included, inter alia, the signing of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in the Central African Republic on 23 July 2014 in Brazzaville, the extension of the transition period to August 2015, and the process of comprehensive dialogue initiated with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for the holding of the Bangui forum, which would lay the foundation for true national reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

MINUSCA and its key partners, including the African Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union and France, had emphasized their readiness to support the ongoing electoral process. There was also a plan to address disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the reform of the

administrative and judicial system and the promotion of political and administrative governance, as well as the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the volatile security situation in the Central African Republic, with killings, arbitrary detention, abductions, sexual violence against women, child recruitment and illegal trafficking in arms, as well as illicit exploitation of the country's natural resources. He emphasized that, in the context of the MINUSCA mandate, 217 alleged criminals had been arrested during MINUSCA patrols and had been handed over to the Central African authorities for trial.

He said that more than 4,000 persons, including 23 humanitarian workers, had been killed since the adoption of the arms embargo. In December 2014, MINUSCA had achieved 80 per cent of its full troop deployment and was expecting reinforcements in view of the withdrawal of European Union forces in March 2015.

He also highlighted the urgent needs of MINUSCA for increased capacity in troops, police and technical staff as well as logistical capacity for maintaining law and order during the future elections. He called for a C-130 Hercules helicopter to be assigned to MINUSCA for aerial surveillance and transport.

With regard to impunity in the Central African Republic, the Under-Secretary-General emphasized that sanctions should also serve as a strong message to deter troublemakers. However, sanctions would only succeed with the support of neighbouring countries for the control of people and weapons at the border, in accordance with the Malabo agreements on light weapons.

At the same meeting, the members of the Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Raimonda Murmokaitė, in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic.

Most of the briefing focused on the results of the work of the Committee's Panel of Experts, the steps taken by the Committee with the countries neighbouring the Central African Republic, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the African Union and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for information-sharing and investigation of criminal networks and their multifaceted illegal activities.

The Chair of the Committee also noted the case of individuals and entities subject to United Nations sanctions and of those that, depending on the outcome of the investigation, might be placed on the sanctions list. The former Presidents of the Central African Republic, François Bozizé and Michel Djotodia, as well as the leader of the ex-Séléka, Adam Noureddine, might be included in the new sanctions list.

She also referred to the letters addressed to the Chair of the Kimberley Process and the President of the World Diamond Council emphasizing the need for close cooperation with the Committee in connection with the procurement and sale of mineral resources from the Central African Republic.

She commended the quality of the Committee's cooperation with the countries neighbouring the Central African Republic and welcomed the comments made by the representatives of Chad, Cameroon, South Sudan, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding their willingness to work with the Committee on

the issue of controls at their respective borders with the Central African Republic. She informed Council members of her intention to visit the Central African Republic early in 2015.

At its 7349th meeting, on 18 December, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/28) initiated by France.

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

At the 7334th meeting, on 10 December, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Abdoulaye Bathily, followed by a briefing from the Special Envoy of the African Union for the Issue of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Jackson K. Tuwei. The main focus of the two briefings was, on the one hand, the activities of UNOCA and, on the other, the threat posed by LRA in the subregion.

According to the Special Representative, LRA remained a concern for States in the subregion, owing to the serious violations that it had inflicted on civilian populations: murder, rape, enslavement, looting, abduction, child recruitment, illegal exploitation of natural resources, illicit trade in weapons and so on.

The Council welcomed the joint efforts undertaken by the United Nations with the African Union with a view to eradicating that sect. The Council also commended the work of the United States of America, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Union, which were already part of the coalition.

The Special Representative expressed his disappointment at the continuing violations in the Central African Republic, despite the signing of the Brazzaville cessation of hostilities agreement. He believed that the lack of leadership among the transitional authorities contributed to that situation. To that end, he requested the Council to exert strong pressure on Central African political leaders to respect their commitment to peace through dialogue.

He briefed the Council on the likely holding of elections in several countries of Central Africa in 2015 and urged the United Nations to support them. He also reiterated his request for donors to provide significant logistical resources to UNOCA, as they had done for the United Nations Office for West Africa, so that UNOCA could cover a broad range of activities, and address challenges that were both numerous and diverse.

On the basis of that public briefing, the President of the Council made a few remarks to the press.

A presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/25) was adopted unanimously by the members of the Council.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

At the request of Rwanda, consultations were held on 17 December on the status of preparations for the planned joint action by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo

against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) following the expiry of the ultimatum on 2 January 2015.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Martin Kobler, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, briefed the Council on the lack of interest in voluntary disarmament shown by FDLR. They also informed the Council of their respective efforts to improve the political situation both within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with regard to relations among the States members of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries.

The disarmed rebels were mostly women, children, the elderly, the ill or persons with disabilities. Furthermore, their weapons were small arms and sometimes obsolete. This demonstrated that FDLR combatants were determined to mock the international community.

The Council members emphasized that the special regime benefiting FDLR would not be renewed after 2 January; however, the door to dialogue remained open to those who decided to lay down their arms and comply with the international community's ultimatum.

Peace and security in Africa: Sahel

At its 7335th meeting, on 11 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, under the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa". The Special Envoy briefed the Council on the latest developments in the Sahel, in particular the worrisome security and humanitarian situation, stressing that it called for stronger commitment by Governments of the region to improve governance and undertake changes.

With regard to security, she mentioned the impact on the Sahel of the crises in Libya, northern Nigeria, northern Mali and the Central African Republic, and expressed concern about the alleged presence of terrorist training camps in Libya, adding that if the situation in that country was not brought under control, many States in the region could be destabilized. In her view, close to 20,000 firearms from Libya had crossed into the Sahel and the greater part of the 18 tons of cocaine, worth $1.25 billion, that were dumped in West Africa had transited through the Sahel region. She encouraged the exploration of ways to strengthen the regional security cooperation mechanisms, and welcomed the efforts made by the African Union through the Nouakchott process. On the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, she noted that her office would work with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and other relevant United Nations entities in order to strengthen regional analysis and programming.

On the humanitarian front, she stated that the indicators remained disquieting and that appeals remained underfunded. She also asked for particular attention to be given to migrants who cross the Sahel en route to Europe and the Middle East, which led to loss of life and exacerbated the problem of trafficking in persons.

The Special Envoy also referred to progress in mainstreaming the priorities of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel into existing programmatic frameworks, citing examples in the areas of resilience, governance and security. She

welcomed some recent initiatives undertaken by the World Bank and the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank that complemented the objectives of the strategy. Lastly she referred to three priorities of her work, namely support for project implementation, enhanced coordination of efforts in the Sahel and the promotion of regional ownership, including through the ministerial coordination platform for the Sahel and the Group of Five for the Sahel.

Members of the Council reiterated their support for the Special Envoy and shared her assessment of the alarming situation, in particular the impact of the Libyan crisis and the Boko Haram terrorist group in the region. Several members called for increased security cooperation in the region and, in this context, welcomed the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel. They also recalled the importance of harmonizing the various initiatives on the Sahel and enhancing coordination. Some asserted that good governance, peace, stability and development went hand in hand, hence the importance of conflict resolution, in particular in Libya and Mali, and of addressing the issue of youth unemployment. They also asked how the strategy could assist both in that regard and in terms of concrete projects.

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

Chemical weapons

The Council held consultations on the subject of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic on 3 December, with the participation of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Sigrid Kaag, who gave her fifteenth and last briefing on the issue, before her departure for Lebanon, where she would serve as Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

On the subject of chemical weapons, progress had been made. All declared chemical weapons components for destruction on the high seas had been 100 per cent destroyed, and precautions had been taken to prevent environmental consequences, and remaining chemicals are being destroyed outside of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Special Adviser said it was possible that the destruction of the 12 remaining chemical weapon production facilities could be accelerated and still meet the end of June 2015 deadline. Several Council members said meeting this accelerated destruction timeline was important.

The disarmament process had been a good example of multilateral cooperation between the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international community, the Security Council and the Syrian Arab Republic, a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and continued cooperation was essential to completing the job.

The Council had also demonstrated unity in its management of this issue. For example, resolution 2118 (2013) had been recognized by all as a success, even though several Council members said there were remaining issues to resolve, such as the use of chlorine gases as chemical weapons and omissions in the Syrian Arab Republic's original declaration to OPCW. The Special Adviser advised that the work of the declaration assessment team to resolve the problems with the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration on its chemical weapons programme was ongoing. This was

an important part of the entire disarmament process. Full transparency and continued cooperation was needed from the Syrian authorities. Furthermore, despite the progress achieved, it could be said with a high degree of confidence that chlorine was used as a weapon.

All speakers agreed that the chemicals should not fall into the hands of rebels, although one member stated that the rebels could also have used chlorine gases. Members were unanimous in the view that the perpetrators of the use of such chemical weapons must be held accountable and brought to justice. Some members of the Council considered that the remaining issues of the Syrian chemical weapons file were of a purely technical nature, and that there was no reason for the Council to focus on those issues, which should therefore be addressed by OPCW, given its competency and expertise.

In contrast, some other members felt that there were parts of the disarmament process that were incomplete, including the obtaining of an accurate and credible declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme, and addressing the systematic use of chlorine as a weapon. They believed the Syrian Government was responsible for the use of barrel bombs with chlorine gas by helicopters and was a threat to international peace and security, and that for that reason the Council should remain seized of the matter.

A brief statement was read to the press by the President of the Council.

Humanitarian questions

The Syrian crisis has had an impact on every Syrian, and without a political solution it is difficult to envisage a way out of the crisis. The war that has lasted for over three years is not a reasonable option.

On 15 December, at its 7342nd meeting, the Council considered the situation in the Middle East. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed Council members, as she does every month at the Council's request. She recalled that her November briefing had focused on humanitarian access in conflict areas inside the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders into the country. For the current month, she focused on the protection of civilians, following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) nearly 10 months prior. She regretted that the resolution had had no impact, contrary to the Council's wishes that schools, hospitals and civilian facilities and infrastructure should not be targeted. Unfortunately, the destruction had continued unabated, as the parties ignored international humanitarian law and human rights.

An estimated 200,000 people had been killed and more than 1 million injured. More than 12 million people were in a precarious situation with all kinds of needs. More than 7.6 million people had been internally displaced and over 3 million were refugees in neighbouring countries and worldwide.

She said that the international community had become numb to that human catastrophe, which had been deliberately caused through a war that was unending. Despite the prohibitions contained in resolution 2139 (2014), as well as various other resolutions, barrel bombs, mortars and car bombs continued to be used in several towns, including Aleppo, Hama, Idlib, rural Damascus, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa and Dar'a.

According to the Under-Secretary-General, the Syrian Arab Republic was now the most dangerous country in the world for children. More than 5.6 million were in need of immediate assistance. Children had been publicly executed, beheaded or stoned to death and they had been forced to witness horrors. She further reported that approximately 350 children, some as young as 5, had been forcibly recruited into the army and were being trained in a camp near Raqqa.

With regard to human rights violations, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was committing acts that included sexual and gender-based crimes against girls under the age of 12, who were captured and placed in rest houses where they were systematically raped by rebels returning from the front. Others had been enslaved or even sold in markets. Torture had become a strategy of war against civilians.

On the Government side, prisons were overcrowded, and torture was practised on a daily basis, as were beatings, summary executions, extrajudicial killings and starvation. Essential medicines were being withdrawn from aid shipments made by the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and other entities.

She appealed to Council members to use their influence to ensure full compliance with resolution 2139 (2014).

In consultations, almost all members of the Council expressed their view that the perpetrators of human rights violations and other degrading treatment must be identified, held accountable and brought to justice to answer for their acts. One Council member expressed the view that those who help anti-government fighters in the Syrian Arab Republic, fuelling destabilization, should invest in humanitarian aid. In his view, there were no good or bad terrorists, they were all the same. All members believed that a political solution to the Syrian crisis must be found, and they expressed their firm support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura.

On 17 December, at its 7344th meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2191 (2014), introduced by Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan. The resolution was consistent with the presidential statement of 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15) and with resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), and extended for a period of 12 months the authorization provided under resolution 2165 (2014). In resolution 2191 (2014), the Council demanded that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

On 12 December, the President of the Council made a statement to the press expressing sorrow at the death of the Palestinian Minister, Ziad Abu Ein, which occurred after a demonstration in the village of Turmus Ayya. Council members expressed their condolences to the family of the Minister, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority, encouraged the parties to ensure that swift and transparent investigation be undertaken, and took note of the willingness of the Government of Israel to conduct a joint investigation into the incident. Council members called on all sides to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from steps that could further destabilize the situation.

On 13 December, the President of the Council issued a statement condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the Embassy of Israel in Athens.

Council members commended the response of the Government of Greece and reaffirmed that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

A meeting with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was held on 10 December. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Permanent Representative. The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The Under-Secretary-General informed the participants that serious incidents had occurred in the area of separation between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the reporting period. Those events had forced some UNDOF troops to temporarily leave their positions in the area of separation, and they would return as soon as circumstances permitted. Equipment seized by the rebels had not been returned. In addition, sensitive electronic surveillance equipment sent by Ireland had been seized by the Syrian authorities (customs).

Following the meeting, a communiqué to be issued in place of a verbatim record was approved.

At its 7346th meeting, on 18 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2192 (2014), in which it stressed that both parties must abide by the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and observe the ceasefire. The Council called on all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to fully respect the privileges and immunities of UNDOF and its mandate. Lastly, it renewed the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, until 30 June 2015, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council every 90 days.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 30 December, the Council held an unprecedented meeting (7354th meeting) to vote on a draft resolution submitted by Jordan on behalf of the Group of Arab States which included setting a deadline for ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn, and, at the invitation of the Council, the representative of Israel and the observer for the State of Palestine.

The draft resolution was put to a vote by the President of the Council and received eight votes in favour (Argentina, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Luxembourg, Russian Federation), two votes against (Australia, United States of America) and five abstentions (Lithuania, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom). Having failed to obtain the required number of affirmative votes, the draft resolution was not adopted. All Council members provided explanations of vote to publicly justify their positions and votes.

Those who had voted in favour of the draft resolution said it was necessary to accelerate the process of granting recognition to Palestine as an independent State

living side by side with Israel in peace and within the internationally recognized borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Council members said it would have made it possible to end the occupation and find a solution for Palestinian refugees. Those members insisted on the need for the Council to play an active role on the issue given the failure of the peace process to implement the vision for two States since the Oslo accords of 1993. The Council had a responsibility to define parameters for peace on the basis of which parties could resume negotiations towards a final status agreement.

Those who had voted against the draft resolution reiterated their commitment to a future in which Israel and a Palestinian State would exist side by side in peace and security. They said the text was unbalanced, sought to impose a solution put forward by one party alone, and did not take into account the security concerns of Israel. They stated, moreover, that the draft resolution was put to a vote without a discussion or due consideration among Council members.

Those who had abstained said that they had not voted for the status quo, noting that it is unacceptable and unsustainable. They stated that Israelis and Palestinians must live side by side within the recognized borders under the conditions clearly set out in resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1515 (2003). Council members added that any unilateral action is counterproductive and detrimental to the resumption of talks, which would be necessary in order to find ways and means of resolving the crisis.

The representative of Israel and the observer for the State of Palestine, invited to speak under rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, made statements.

The Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine emphasized that, despite the suffering they had endured, Palestinians were a proud and dignified people who were convinced that justice and the legitimate and inalienable right to self-determination would one day win out over the desire for destruction. He asked why it was so difficult for the Security Council, which had adopted resolution 242 (1967), to act. He noted that Palestine had already been recognized by 135 States, most recently by Sweden. He said there was overwhelming support in the General Assembly, where 181 States had voted in favour of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The representative of Israel said that the Palestinians had found every possible opportunity to avoid direct negotiations with Israel and now had put forward a unilateral proposal to the Security Council.

Yemen

On 11 December, at the 7336th meeting of the Council, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), responsible for monitoring sanctions concerning Yemen, presented her second report, informing the Council that additional individuals had been added to the sanctions list. These were Abdullah Yahya Al Hakim, Abd Al-Khaliq Al-Huthi and Ali Abdullah Saleh, who met the criteria for designation outlined in paragraph 17 of resolution 2140 (2014). All States Members of the United Nations were required to implement those measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

A fourth expert had been appointed and the Panel of Experts had conducted three field visits to Yemen and to the five member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, where it had met with non-governmental organizations and government officials.

Lastly, the Chair of the Committee recalled that on 25 November 2014 a cooperation agreement had been signed with INTERPOL on fighting crime in Yemen. The agreement had entered into effect on 4 December 2014.

During informal consultations, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, stressed that the new Government had made a number of reforms, including the appointment of a new Cabinet and the establishment of a committee to advise on economic matters. However, the actions of the Houthi rebels against members of the Government, such as body searches and the control exerted over their work by adolescent soldiers, were unbearable. The Houthis controlled the army, security, the Administration and the various institutions of the State. He noted that the capital had been divided into different command zones, with Houthi checkpoints extending into other provinces.

The Council members noted the Peace and National Partnership Agreement of 21 September 2014, which was an effort to defuse tensions in Sana'a. They all agreed that Yemen was dominated by the Houthis, who had taken control of all State institutions.

An attack on 3 December against the Iranian Ambassador's residence had caused several deaths and injuries and there were other terrorist attacks in the reporting period.

The President of the Council issued a statement to the press on 4 December in which he expressed sympathy and condolences, on behalf of the Council members, to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the families of the victims. The Council members also recalled the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, and the obligations on host Governments, including under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises against any intrusion or damage. They underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

On 16 December, a number of people were killed, including 15 schoolchildren, and others were injured in an attack against a school bus in Radaa. The President of the Council issued a statement to the press on 17 December. Messages of condolence and deepest sympathies were addressed to the Government and its people for this heinous act. The Council members reiterated that all terrorist acts were condemnable and reprehensible, and spoke with one voice in vowing to combat them in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Europe

Kosovo

Pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(UNMIK) (S/2014/773 and Corr.1), the Council met on 4 December for its 7327th meeting, on the subject of Kosovo.

The Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, and Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo attended the meeting.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Farid Zarif, gave a briefing on the situation during the period from July to October 2014. He expressed concern, underscoring that the Assembly of Kosovo had not yet been established and a government had not been formed following the parliamentary elections of 8 June 2014. He urged Kosovo's political leaders to resolve their political differences in order to bring the institutional process to completion and focus their efforts on establishing good governance.

He noted with satisfaction the ongoing efforts of the Belgrade and Priština technical teams to implement the agreements reached on energy, management of crossing points and freedom of movement. He encouraged the resumption of the high-level dialogue facilitated by the European Union for the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Priština. He also stressed that the momentum for the administrative integration of the four northern Kosovo municipalities be sustained. In that context, he stated that advancing the establishment of a community/association of Serb-majority municipalities, in line with the agreement of 19 April 2013, remained vital.

He stressed that the work of the Special Investigative Task Force of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) remained critical to the process of justice and reconciliation in Kosovo. He urged the Kosovo Assembly to prioritize the adoption of the required legislation, so that a specialist court could become operational early in 2015 and begin tackling the cases that would be brought before it.

With respect to regional cooperation, the Special Representative reported that ethnic tensions persisted and incidents were still occurring in various areas of the western Balkans. Nevertheless, there had been signs of improvement, particularly the visit to Serbia of the Prime Minister of Albania in November 2014, the first of its kind in 68 years, and the holding in October 2014 of the first informal regional meeting of the European Union and western Balkan foreign and economic affairs ministers.

The Prime Minister of Serbia reminded the Council members that Belgrade did not recognize the secession of Kosovo and Metohija or its self-proclamation of statehood, and reiterated that that position was not an obstacle to discussions or negotiations.

He said that Serbia welcomed the efforts of the United Nations, particularly UNMIK, and of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Kosovo Force (KFOR). He also stressed that the role of UNMIK should continue to be strengthened in the areas of the current competences of the Mission in order to fulfil its mandate, particularly in areas of vital importance for Serbs and other non-Albanians living in Kosovo and Metohija.

He regretted the lack of progress in the implementation of what he termed the key segment of the Brussels agreements relating to the establishment of the community of Serbian municipalities in Kosovo and Metohija, expressed

disappointment over the silence in the report of the Secretary-General on illegal construction and land usurpation in Brdjani, as well as the high number of ethnically motivated attacks. He also stressed the need to preserve religious and cultural heritage and to expedite the return and reintegration of displaced persons. He called for greater interaction between religious communities and welcomed the progress made in missing persons' cases. Lastly, the Prime Minister expressed regret at the rise of extremism in Kosovo.

Mr. Thaçi reaffirmed that it was the desire and the intention of Kosovo to join the European Union and NATO in the future. With respect to the elections, he noted with satisfaction the participation of Serbs in northern Kosovo, and added that the political stalemate that had followed the June electoral process had not led to any violence.

On the matter of the international sovereignty of Kosovo, he reported that the Republic of Kosovo had been recognized by 108 countries. It had become a member of the International Olympic Committee, and in Dakar, recently, it had been admitted as a member of the International Organization of la Francophonie.

Lastly, he condemned the occasional attacks against the Serbian Orthodox Church and reiterated the commitment of Kosovo to the global fight against terrorism and against the propagation of religious radicalism.

Council members expressed their concern at the ongoing political crisis and institutional stalemate and urged the political leaders to reach an agreement quickly in order to establish the Kosovo Assembly and form a new government.

The Council members underscored the need to resume the dialogue facilitated by the European Union for the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Priština. Several member States referred to the need for the swift establishment of the community of Serb municipalities in line with the Brussels agreements. Several members expressed their support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia and said that resolution 1244 (1999) provided the key legal basis for resolving the crisis of Kosovo. They also underlined that UNMIK must have all necessary resources to fulfil its mandate. Several member States supported reducing the frequency of UNMIK reports and debates, and raised the issue of potentially adjusting the United Nations presence, noting the stability of the situation in Kosovo.

Some Council members welcomed the commitment expressed and the measures taken to counter violent extremism and terrorism, particularly the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The Council members encouraged KFOR and EULEX to continue their cooperation with the Kosovo authorities in order to ensure security and strengthen the rule of law throughout the country. Certain matters continued to be a cause for concern, however, including the exhumation, identification and return of the bodily remains of those who had disappeared during the war, as had been done recently when remains discovered in a mass grave had been repatriated to the families on 16 October. Another issue was the delay in bringing to justice persons presumed guilty of massacres and atrocities committed during the war as well as the establishment of the specialist court to investigate the allegations of crimes against humanity by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Asia

Pakistan

The President of the Council issued a statement to the press in which the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the savage terrorist attack on 16 December against a school in Peshawar by the group Tehrik-e-Taliban that had caused the death of 140 civilians, including 132 children, and many injuries. They expressed condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. They also welcomed the efforts of the people and leaders of Pakistan to protect schools and schoolchildren.

Afghanistan

By a statement to the press issued by the President of the Council on 11 December, the members condemned in the strongest terms the suicide attack that day against the French Institute of Afghanistan in Kabul, which had caused deaths and injuries to numerous civilians, for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility.

The members of the Council called for the perpetrators of those acts to be brought to justice. The members of the Council reiterated that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability in Afghanistan which is supported by the people and the Government of Afghanistan and by the international community.

At its 7338th meeting, on 12 December, the Council voted unanimously in favour of resolution 2189 (2014) on the Resolute Support Mission, submitted by Australia. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Zahir Tanin, invited to speak under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, thanked the Council for adopting the resolution, in which it reaffirmed the completion of the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and welcomed the establishment of the non-combat Resolute Support Mission, aimed at training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces on the basis of agreements between Afghanistan and NATO.

At its 7347th meeting, on 18 December, the Council held a debate on Afghanistan, during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Nicholas Haysom, briefed the Council on the situation in the country during the political transition. Welcoming the agreement on the formation of a national unity Government, he underlined that the solution to the Afghan conflict would be political rather than military.

Turning to the security situation, the Special Representative stated that, as at 30 November, Afghanistan in 2014 had had the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries since 2008, caused by improvised explosive devices, suicide attacks and military operations by the parties to the conflict. He underlined that UNAMA continued to engage with the Taliban on the critical issue of the responsibility to protect civilians.

He drew the Council's attention to the launch on 1 January of the Resolute Support Mission, which would replace ISAF, whose mandate would expire on 31 December 2014.

He also informed the international community of the country's difficult financial situation owing to a drop in revenue.

The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yuri Fedotov, drew the Council's attention to the impact of opium production on the development and stability of Afghanistan, with a 7 per cent increase in the area under poppy cultivation in the previous year. He recommended that counter-narcotic efforts should be incorporated into development and security strategies and should be delivered as part of the unified assistance provided for under Security Council resolution 2145 (2014), as the illicit drug economy was a scourge not only for Afghanistan but for the entire region.

The Council members and participating States expressed their appreciation for the peaceful transfer of power from the outgoing President, Hamid Karzai, and the establishment of a National Unity Government led by the new President, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, and the Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Following a request submitted to the Council by Australia on 5 December 2014 (S/2014/872) and co-signed by nine other members of the Council, an open meeting (7353rd meeting) was held on 22 December on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Upon opening the meeting, the President of the Council noted that one delegation had expressed its disagreement with the inclusion of the matter in the Council's agenda. The representative of the delegation stated that the issue of human rights should not be addressed by the Council and that dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would be the best way to find a solution. Another delegation was of the view that the gravity and systematic nature of the human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constituted a threat to international peace and security and that therefore the issue should be considered formally by the Council. As the difference of opinion on the agenda made a procedural vote necessary, the President put the question to a vote. There were 11 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 2 abstentions; the issue was therefore included in the Council's agenda.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, briefed the Council on the human rights situation in the country.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs said the discussion in the Security Council of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea allowed for a more comprehensive assessment and action when addressing security and stability concerns on the Korean peninsula. He said that, in keeping with its obligations under international law, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had a responsibility to protect its population from the most serious international crimes. He added that the international community also had a collective responsibility to protect the population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to consider the broader implications of the reported grave human rights situation for the stability of the region.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights told the Council that comprehensive human rights violations on the part of the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea had had a significant impact on regional peace and security. He added that, in order to reduce tension in the region, there must be movement towards real respect for human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and said that issue deserved the Council's fullest attention and action.

He presented the findings in the report of the Human Rights Council's commission of inquiry, published in February 2014, regarding the grave and systematic human rights violations committed by the regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Those violations included killings, arbitrary detention, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence. He recalled that, according to the commission, some of those violations may amount to crimes against humanity.

The two speakers described the dire humanitarian situation in the country and called for increased humanitarian assistance.

In their statements, those members of the Council who had voted in favour of the proposed agenda item said that the massive and systematic human rights violations being committed, including international abductions, enforced disappearances and trafficking, warranted Council consideration of referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court. Those members also said that the Council should remain seized of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Those members that had voted against the Council's consideration of human rights issues argued these should be considered by the Human Rights Council instead.

Those members that had abstained affirmed States' obligation to promote and protect the rights of their citizens. Nevertheless, they called for prudence in avoiding the politicization of human rights matters, particularly when, in some situations where massive and flagrant violations of human rights had been committed, the international community had lacked the courage even to report them. They also wondered about what they called the double standard applied by the Council to human rights matters and about the timing of raising the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Islamic Republic of Iran

At its 7350th meeting, on 18 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Australia, Gary Quinlan, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), under the item entitled "Non-proliferation". He presented the quarterly report of the Committee for the period from 13 September to 17 December 2014.

With respect to the Committee's activities, he said that no incidents had been reported during the reporting period and noted that a request to delist an entity included on the sanctions list had been rejected. He underscored the assistance that the Committee continued to provide in the implementation of the relevant Security Council measures, and encouraged States that had not yet done so to submit their implementation reports.

On the Iranian nuclear issue, he was pleased to note that the parties involved in the Joint Plan of Action had renewed their commitment to continue negotiations towards finding a comprehensive agreement. He emphasized that the relevant

Security Council resolutions remained in full effect as negotiations between the five plus one group and the Islamic Republic of Iran continued.

Council members commended the role of the Committee, took note of the reports of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929 (2010) and paid tribute to the Permanent Representative of Australia, who had chaired the Committee over the past two years. They welcomed the continued negotiations between the five plus one group and the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action and stressed the need for efforts by parties concerned for an early comprehensive agreement that is win-win to all. Several members reiterated the need for cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and stressed that the Council's sanctions remained in force. Some members stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had yet to dissipate the international community's doubts on the exclusively peaceful purposes of its nuclear programme. One member stated that the affirmations that all sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran remained in force were pointless.

Thematic issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations

At the 7343rd meeting, on 16 December, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad, Moussa Faki Mahamat, chaired a high-level open debate on the theme "Peace operations: the United Nations-African Union partnership and its evolution" under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", further to the letter dated 8 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/879). The Secretary-General and the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel, Pierre Buyoya, made statements to the Council.

The Secretary-General emphasized Africa's important contributions to peacekeeping activities and noted that it was critical to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and to work together to better prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. He welcomed the collaboration between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, and between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. With regard to the critical area of peace and security, he emphasized the need for intervention at the first signs of crisis. He also highlighted the need to adapt in the face of evolving conflicts, noting that he had launched a review of peace operations to address the new challenges. In addition, he called for the building of strong partnerships, the establishment of a role for the African Union and subregional organizations, the enhancement of logistical capabilities and the identification of creative financing methods.

The High Representative of the African Union commended the strategic partnerships between United Nations entities and the African Union and called for such partnerships to be strengthened. Steps had been taken to operationalize the African Standby Force and the African capacity for immediate response to crises. He listed the contributions the African Union had made to the maintenance of

international peace and security through several operations, some of which had become United Nations operations. African initiatives and the work of the United Nations were complementary, he said. Unfortunately, when undertaking operations authorized by the United Nations, the African Union and its regional mechanisms were faced with the major obstacle of financing. He urged the two organizations to achieve greater political coherence, which required more consultations prior to decision-making, a shared understanding of the issues and support to African-led operations. The two organizations should agree on a set of principles that revolved around support for African ownership, priority-setting, the division of labour, the sharing of responsibilities, and so on.

Council members commended the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. In addition to the Council members, 21 States participated in the debate, commending the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, and calling for such cooperation to be strengthened.

The Council unanimously adopted a statement by the President (S/PRST/2014/27) in which it called for the strengthening of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security, commended the African Union for its contributions, and requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on ways to strengthen the partnership. Council members commended the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union, and called for its expansion in the light of the need to adapt to the new threats that had emerged. Some Council members expressed regret that the Security Council maintained the status quo with respect to the financing of peacekeeping operations under its mandate.

Threats to international peace and security: terrorism and cross-border crime

At the 7351st meeting, on 19 December, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Chad chaired a high-level open debate on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: terrorism and cross-border crime", pursuant to the letter dated 4 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a related concept note (S/2014/869). The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Téte António, made statements to the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General, introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/9), outlined the efforts of the United Nations system to support national, subregional and regional counter-terrorism efforts. Cross-border crime fuelled terrorism with money, arms and support to move across borders and destabilize States. He called for a better understanding of the implications of terrorist and criminal collaboration, the systematization of responses and a focus on the impact in affected countries and regions. He said that, as recent peace operations have incorporated cross-border crime analysis into their mission planning, terrorism should be part of the mainstream of the work of the United Nations, particularly through special political missions, peacekeeping operations and country teams in the field.

The Permanent Observer of the African Union said that cross-border activities in Africa had both contributed to the onset of conflicts and complicated subsequent management and resolution efforts. In Mali, an environment conducive to cross-border trafficking had emerged; it had come to be a haven for terrorist and criminal groups. In the Sahel region, terrorist groups were financed through kidnapping for ransom and drug trafficking. In Somalia, Al-Shabaab had profited from the illegal sale of charcoal; in Central Africa, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) had benefited from the poaching of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory.

He recalled the African Union initiatives in response to those situations, such as the Nouakchott process in the Sahelo-Saharan region; the related Nouakchott summit, at which participants had expressed a readiness to establish a rapid intervention force in support of MINUSMA; the information-sharing and coordination mechanism to address Al-Shabaab in the Horn of Africa; and the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of LRA.

He made several recommendations, which included engaging border populations in the design of quick-impact projects and rehabilitation and development strategies; improving governance in border areas; creating job opportunities in communities; and preventing potential conflicts by strengthening early-warning mechanisms. The African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation provided a cooperative framework to transform border areas into catalysts for growth, enable socioeconomic and political integration, ensure efficient and effective integrated border management, and collectively address cross-border crime and terrorism.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 2195 (2014), the first resolution to address the increasing number of links between terrorism and transnational organized crime. The Council recognized that such links may exacerbate conflicts and complicate their prevention and resolution. Council members highlighted the request in the resolution for the Secretary-General to report on the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, which could better position the United Nations to help States disrupt the ability of terrorists to benefit from those links. In that regard, the Council emphasized the importance of regional and international cooperation, strengthening the capacity-building of States and the coordinating role of the United Nations. Council members agreed that the intersection between the two phenomena, which was apparent in several countries and areas around the world, was a destabilizing force and hampered development. They emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation and coordination, ensure adherence to the relevant international conventions and instruments, and improve governance. A few Council members made a distinction between the motives of terrorists and those of criminals, as well as the nature of the different legal regimes used to combat them. Some Council members recommended that the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions could be strengthened to address transnational organized crime, including to gather and analyse the threat and to build the capacity of host Governments to disrupt illicit activities. In addition to the Council members, 37 States participated in the debate.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

On 10 December, at its 7332nd meeting, the Council held an open debate on issues relating to the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia.

The debate was held in follow-up to the annual reports of the two Tribunals (S/2014/546 and S/2014/556, respectively) and the letters from the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (S/2014/826), the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (S/2014/827) and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (S/2014/829) addressed to the President of the Council.

The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia participated in the meeting, in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Judge Theodor Meron, introduced his report, and briefed the Council on the completion strategy of the Tribunal. There had been delays in a number of cases. The reasons included the disqualification of a judge in the case of Vojislav Šešelj, who had been released owing to his poor health, and humanitarian reasons relating to the advanced age of accused persons such as Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić.

The President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Vagn Joensen, also made a statement, highlighting the progress made. The Tribunal had rendered a judgement in the Bizimungu appeal and three judgements involving four persons. Appellate proceedings had been concluded with respect to 55 persons since the establishment of the Tribunal; the *Nyiramasuhuko et al.* (*Butare*) case concerning six persons was the single remaining case. The problem of relocating acquitted and convicted released persons was mentioned. No State had agreed to relocate them, despite the repeated appeals from the Security Council in that regard. Only Belgium had granted a family reunification visa to General Ndildiliyimana.

The Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Serge Brammertz, provided an update on the judgements. The work in the trial of Radovan Karadžić had been completed; the only two remaining courtroom trials were for the Mladić and Hadžić cases. The issue of reparations for victims had yet to be addressed.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had delivered judgements on several Rwandan officials, convicting them of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. According to the Prosecutor of that Tribunal and Prosecutor of the Residual Mechanism, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, the last case, *Butare*, would be heard later.

Council members expressed in turn their appreciation for the reports on the Tribunals.

The representative of Rwanda said that it had been clearly established that war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of rape and sexual violence had been committed in that country and that genocide had occurred against the Tutsi. Yet the Security Council and the Tribunal were reluctant to make that specification, opting for general terms, such as "Rwandan genocide". While he welcomed the judgements rendered, he regretted the delays in the Tribunal's work and the acquittal of several accused persons, as well as the fact that nine masterminds of the genocide were still at large abroad. He concluded by noting the need to transfer the Tribunal's archives to Rwanda.

The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia expressed their appreciation for the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and confirmed their willingness to continue to cooperate by exchanging information and issuing judgements at the national level.

The representative of Serbia deplored the protracted procedures and prolonged detentions, which tarnished the image of the Tribunal. He drew attention to the case of Vojislav Šešelj, who had voluntarily surrendered himself and had been held in prison for 12 years without sentencing before he had been provisionally released for health reasons.

For the representative of Croatia, the release of the Serb Vojislav Šešelj, supposedly for health reasons, was unacceptable, as he had persisted with his war-mongering rhetoric, cynically and openly mocking countless victims, and disseminating hate speech.

Council members and participants in the debate generally acknowledged the role and contribution of the two Tribunals and the progressive implementation of the mechanisms to complete their work. They also regretted the delay in the conclusion of activities of the two Tribunals, which had a deadline of 31 December 2014, and called for the process to be accelerated, with due respect for the judicial process.

At the 7348th meeting, on 18 December, given that the mandates of the judges and prosecutors were expiring on 31 December 2014, the Council members adopted two resolutions, extending the terms of office of the judges and prosecutors of the two Tribunals. Some of the mandates were subject to earlier termination, should the Tribunals complete their work or the cases to which the judges were assigned conclude before then. While the resolution on the Rwanda Tribunal (resolution 2194 (2014)) was adopted unanimously, the resolution on the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (resolution 2193 (2014)) was adopted by 14 votes, with one abstention (Russian Federation). The representative of the Russian Federation referred, inter alia, to the unacceptable delays in rendering judgements and planning errors in cases that should have been concluded long before, and said that the delays demonstrated an apparent lack of consideration for the Council by the judges of the Tribunal.

Subsidiary bodies

At the 7331st meeting, on 9 December, the five outgoing non-permanent members (Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea and Rwanda) gave end-of-mandate briefings on the committees they had chaired. While some said they had been successful in discharging their mandates, others had experienced difficulties in carrying out their missions.

Wrap-up session

At the 7352nd meeting, on 22 December, the Council members held a public briefing on the implementation of the measures set out in the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507).

The meeting, which had the objective of reviewing the work of the past month with a view to improving the Council's working methods, provided an opportunity to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing Council members, namely Australia, Argentina, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea and Rwanda.

Members also used the opportunity of the last month of the year to make a more comprehensive assessment, reviewing the work completed over the preceding months and to congratulate the President and the entire Chad team for the work completed during the month of December 2014.